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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT,

WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 2004

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER  
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES

BRIEFING

EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEALS

Extensive cooperation with Syria - Sabah  
Turkey and Syria begin a new era - Turkiye  
Kerry 'smart,' Bush 'determined' - Milliyet  
Nader is Bush's 'Trojan Horse' - Aksam  
Israel seeks alternate route for security wall - Aksam  
Greek Cypriots threaten to veto EU aid for 'TRNC' - Milliyet  
Bloody day in Chechnya: 43 dead - Milliyet

OPINION MAKERS

Ankara's close friendship with Damascus - Radikal  
Damascus happy with Turkey for 'excluding' Israel - Zaman  
Rice: Presidential elections won't be postponed - Radikal  
Fukuyama won't vote for Bush - Zaman  
CIA looking for a director - Cumhuriyet  
Armitage the strongest candidate for CIA - Yeni Safak  
Poland a new 'missile shield' for US - Cumhuriyet  
Turkey to train Iraqi police in Jordan - Yeni Safak  
Iranian youth challenge the mullahs - Cumhuriyet  
Caspian oil will save Chechnya - Yeni Safak

BRIEFING

Syrian PM visits Ankara: Visiting Syrian PM Mohamad Naci al-Otri, speaking at a joint press conference with Turkish PM Erdogan on Tuesday, called for a lasting and fair peace in the Middle East. Al-Otri lashed out at Israel for not abiding by UN resolutions, and for using excessive force and terror against unarmed Palestinians. The Syrian PM added that the Israeli security fence would cause further instability in the region. He blamed Tel Aviv for deliberately stalling the Middle East peace process. On Tuesday, Al-Otri and Erdogan discussed energy, natural gas and joint investments in agriculture. They agreed to increase bilateral trade to \$2 billion annually by 2005. Syria will reduce the extent of its territorial waters from 35 miles to 12, and four new air corridors will be opened between Turkey and Syria. Syria will open a consulate general in the southeast Turkish province of Gaziantep in an effort to facilitate visa procedures for tourists, businessmen and truck drivers. The establishment of a Turkish-Syrian joint investment bank was also discussed. The sides are expected to sign a free trade agreement during PM Erdogan's visit to Syria later this year.

Israeli Deputy PM in Ankara: Israeli Deputy PM Ehud Olmert arrived in Ankara late Tuesday night. Having been denied a meeting with PM Erdogan, Olmert is expected to convey PM Sharon's message urging Ankara to tone down its criticism of Israeli policies to President Sezer and FM Gul. Following his meeting in Ankara, Olmert will chair the Turkey-Israel Joint Economic Committee meeting, and will meet with Energy Minister Hilmi Guler on Thursday. Observers expect the two sides to discuss the strain in bilateral relations at a dinner hosted by FM Gul in honor of Olmert this evening. Ankara will urge Israel to abandon violent tactics against Palestinian civilians, and will voice its concern over the Israeli security wall. Ankara is also expected to ask Israel about recent reports claiming covert Israeli intelligence operations in support of the Kurds in northern Iraq.

Turkey-Iran security meeting: Turkey and Iran reached agreement on the text of a memorandum of understanding on security cooperation at the tenth meeting of the bilateral high security committee meeting in Ankara on Tuesday. The MOU will be signed during PM Erdogan's visit to Tehran later this month. The Iranians denied recent press reports claiming that clashes had taken place between Iranian security forces and PKK militants. Ali Ashgar Ahmed, head of the Iranian delegation, said that Iranian soldiers had been involved in skirmishes with smugglers, not with members

of the PKK.

Opposition CHP lawmakers join AKP: Two lawmakers who resigned from the opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) last week joined the AK Party on Tuesday. Both lawmakers left the CHP following the extraordinary party congress held last weekend, at which chairman Deniz Baykal one a vote of confidence. The transfers increased the number of AK Party parliamentarians to 369, just above the two-thirds majority needed to pass constitutional changes. The current distribution of seats in the parliament is as follows: AKP 369, CHP 171, DYP 4, Independent 6.

**EDITORIAL OPINION:**

NATO and Global Security; ICJ Ruling on Israel security wall

"Trans-Atlantic Tension"

Kamuran Ozbir commented in the nationalist Ortadogu (7/14): "It is easy to see President Bush's contribution to the tension in trans-Atlantic relations. Bush's decision to oppose the Kyoto Agreement and withdraw from the anti-ballistic missile agreement, Defense Secretary Rumsfeld's irritating comments about 'old Europe,' and the US determination to occupy Iraq without international support are good examples of this contribution. In each case, President Bush announced his own goals without taking into consideration the views of others. However, it is also worth mentioning Europe's contribution to this tension. Particularly in light of the EU and NATO summits. The Europeans, led by the French, rejected Bush's sensible proposals that were to the benefit of both Europe and the US. It seems that the French rejection of Turkey clashes with statements by Europeans who criticize President Bush's doctrine in the Middle East. Most European leaders do not believe that the new government in Iraq, which was installed by force, will lead to a domino effect of democratization in the region. But if the stick doesn't work to democratize the Muslim world, then the carrot will be the only solution."

"Break Down This Wall"

Zafer Atay wrote in the economic-political Dunya (7/14): "Decisions of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) are, in reality, more like recommendations than legally binding obligations. They have more moral authority rather than legal force. Of course, Israel will not obey this decision. The 'wall of shame,' of which 200 kilometers have already been constructed, will be completed in 2005. Israel will spend \$4 billion on this wall. ... The ICJ presented the UN Security Council with a request that construction of the wall be halted, and that the section already constructed be demolished. UN Security Council decisions are binding. Those who do not obey these rules are subject to sanction. The punishment could come in the form of an embargo or even a military intervention. However, Israel is not concerned about these binding rules, because they know that the power of the US is on its side. The US has saved Israel many times by using its UNSC veto. Instead of solving disagreements through dialogue, Israel tries to cover itself by creating security paranoia. They are now building a wall on the West Bank and digging ditches along the Egyptian border. If Israel does not find these precautions adequate, what is next: nuclear or biological attacks?"

DEUTSCH